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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 35.G2657

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

SHUICHI KOBAYASHI

Express Mail Label No. _____

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. Specification Total Pages **22**
4. Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) Total Sheets **7**
5. Oath or Declaration Total Pages **1**
 - a. Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 6 below]
- i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed Statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application, see
37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. Application Data Sheet See 37 CFR 1.76

ADDRESS TO:

Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

JC760 U.S. PTO
109/685042
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7. CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Form (CRF)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. paper
 - c. Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement
(when there is an assignee) Power of Attorney
11. English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
13. Preliminary Amendment
14. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. Other: _____

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP)
Prior application information: _____ Examiner _____ of prior application No. _____ / _____
Group/Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label	05514 (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)			<input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below
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CLAIMS	(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) CALCULATIONS
	TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(c))	24-20 =	4	X \$ 18.00 =	\$ 72.00
	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(b))	2-3 =	0	X \$ 80.00 =	\$ 0.00
	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 CFR 1.16(d))			\$270.00 =	\$ 270.00
				BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a))	\$ 710.00
				Total of above Calculations =	\$ 1052.00
	Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				
				TOTAL =	\$ 1052.00

19. Small entity status

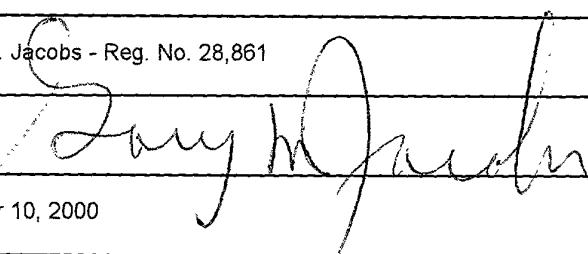
- a. A small entity statement is enclosed
- b. A small entity statement was filed in the prior nonprovisional application and such status is still proper and desired.
- c. Is no longer claimed.

20. A check in the amount of \$1052.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.21. A check in the amount of \$ 40.00 to cover the recordal fee is enclosed.

22. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

- a. Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16
- b. Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17
- c. Fees required under 37 CFR 1.18.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

NAME	Gary M. Jacobs - Reg. No. 28,861
SIGNATURE	
DATE	October 10, 2000

INVENTOR INFORMATION

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Country of Residence: Japan
Citizenship Country: Japan

CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

Correspondence Customer Number: 05514
Fax: (212) 218-2200

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Title Line One: DIFFRACTION OPTICAL DEVICE AND OPTICAL SYSTEM
Title Line Two: INCLUDING THE SAME

Total Drawing Sheets: 7
Formal Drawings?: Yes
Application Type: Utility
Docket Number: 35.G2657
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?: No

REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

Representative Customer Number: 5514

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATIONS

Foreign Application One: 11-290057
Filing Date: 10-12-1999
Country: JAPAN
Priority Claimed: Yes

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Shuichi Kobayashi) : Examiner: Not yet assigned
Application No.: Not yet assigned) : Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned
Filed: October 10, 2000) :
For: DIFFRACTION OPTICAL)
DEVICE AND OPTICAL) :
SYSTEM INCLUDING SAME) : October 10, 2000

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 5, 7, 9, and 10 as follows:

Claim 5

Line 2, change "claims 1 to 4" to --Claims 1 to 3--.

Claim 7

Line 2, change "any one of Claims 1 to 6" to --any one of Claims 1 to 3--.

Claim 9

Line 1, change "Claim 7 or 8" to --Claim 7--.

Claim 10

Line 1, change "Claim 7 or 8" to --Claim 7--.

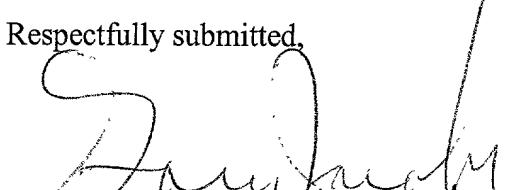
Remarks

Claims 1 through 10 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended so that no multiple dependent claim depends on another multiple dependent claim.

Consideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Dan J. Neale
Attorney for Applicants

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

DIFFRACTION OPTICAL DEVICE AND OPTICAL SYSTEM INCLUDING SAME

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a diffraction optical device and an optical system including the diffraction optical device. More particularly, the present invention is intended to realize a diffraction optical device capable of suppressing the occurrence of flare light due to diffracted light of unnecessary orders, and an optical system including the diffraction optical device.

Description of the Related Art

Hitherto, there is known a method for reducing chromatic aberration by combining plural kinds of glass materials with each other. Another advanced method for reducing chromatic aberration by providing a diffraction optical device, which develops a diffraction action, on a lens surface or in part of an optical system is disclosed in the literature of SPIE Vol. 1354 International Lens Design Conference (1990), Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 4-213421 and No. 6-324262, U.S. Patent No. 5,044,706, etc. This method for reducing chromatic aberration is based on a

physical phenomenon that a refracting surface and a diffracting surface in an optical system develop chromatic aberration in opposing directions for the light of a certain reference wavelength.

5 Further, providing a diffraction optical device is greatly effective in reducing the aberration of an optical system because the diffraction optical device is able to function similarly to an aspherical lens by changing the grating pitch so that diffractive power is partly changed.

10 While in a refraction optical system one ray of light remains as it is after being refracted, one ray of light is divided into plural rays of diffracted light of different orders in a diffraction optical system. In the case of employing a diffraction optical device in a lens system, therefore, the structure of a grating must be determined such that light in the wavelength range to be used is concentrated in one particular order (referred to also as "design order" hereinafter). By concentrating diffracted light in the design order, diffracted light of other orders has a low intensity and can be regarded as being absent if the intensity is zero.

20 If rays of diffracted light of orders other than the design order are present, those light rays are focused in positions different from that in which the ray of diffracted light of the design order is focused, and hence generate

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flare light that is out of focus with respect to the designed image plane. For this reason, in an optical system utilizing the diffraction effect, it is important to pay due consideration to a spectral distribution obtained with the 5 diffraction efficiency for diffracted light of the design order and behaviors of diffracted light of orders other than the design order. Thus, to effectively utilize the color-aberration compensating effect of a diffraction optical device having the above-mentioned properties, it is required that the diffraction efficiency for diffracted light of the 10 design order is sufficiently high over the entire wavelength range to be used, and diffracted light is substantially concentrated in the design order.

Fig. 7B shows a characteristic of the diffraction 15 efficiency resulting when a diffraction optical device shown in Fig. 7A is formed on a certain surface in an optical system.

In the following description, a value of the diffraction efficiency is defined by a ratio of an amount of 20 diffracted light of each order to a total amount of light passing the diffraction optical device. For the brevity of explanation, however, light reflected by the boundary surface of a grating, etc. are not taken into consideration in calculating the value of the diffraction efficiency. In 25 Fig. 7B, the horizontal axis represents wavelength and the

vertical represents diffraction efficiency.

The diffraction optical device comprises a grating with a pitch (period) of 200 μm and a height of 1 μm . The grating is made of a material having a refractive index $nd = 1.513$ and the Abbe's number $vd = 50.08$. The grating has a glazed structure as shown in Fig. 7A. The graph of Fig. 7B indicate the diffraction efficiency when the incident angle is zero (0 degree). This diffraction optical device is designed such that the diffraction efficiency in the wavelength range to be used is maximized for diffracted light of 1-order (indicated by a solid line in Fig. 7B). In other words, the design order is 1-order. Fig. 7B also represents the diffraction efficiency for light of orders around the design order (1-order \pm one order, i.e., 0- and 2-order indicated respectively by a broken line and a one-dot-chain line in Fig. 7B).

As shown in Fig. 7B, the diffraction efficiency for light of the design order is maximized at a certain wavelength (design wavelength) and is gradually lowered as the wavelength departs away from the design wavelength. Corresponding to a lowering of the diffraction efficiency for light of the design 1-order, diffracted light of other orders (0- and 2-orders, etc.) occurs and gives rise to unwanted flare light.

arrangement capable of suppressing a lowering of the diffraction efficiency at wavelengths other than the design wavelength. With this related art, high diffraction efficiency is realized over an entire visible range by 5 selecting three kinds of materials and two different grating thicknesses in optimum combinations, and arranging a plurality of gratings in an adjacently superimposed relation with an equal pitch distribution.

Another arrangement capable of suppressing a lowering 10 of the diffraction efficiency is disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 10-133149. Gratings are superimposed one above the other to have a two-layered sectional shape. High diffraction efficiency is realized over an entire 15 visible range by optimizing the refractive indexes of materials of the two-layered gratings, the dispersion characteristics thereof, and the thickness of each grating.

According to the techniques disclosed in the above-cited publications, a diffraction optical device is made of 20 two or more kinds of materials having different dispersion characteristics to reduce phase shifts occurred at wavelengths other than the design wavelength when light passes the diffraction optical device. As a result, the dependency of diffraction efficiency of the diffraction optical device upon wavelengths is greatly suppressed.

25 By arranging the diffraction optical device in a

refraction optical system, color aberration can be reduced to a large extent based on a physical phenomenon that the direction of dispersion of the diffraction optical device is opposed to that of a refraction optical device. It is also 5 possible to compensate other aberrations by utilizing the above-mentioned effect that the diffraction optical device is able to function similarly to an aspherical lens.

In the diffraction optical device of the related art, however, the grating has a large depth and the dependency of 10 diffraction efficiency upon the incident angle of light upon the diffraction optical device is increased. This raises a problem that the diffraction efficiency is greatly reduced depending upon layout of the diffraction optical device in 15 the optical system.

Particularly, when an air layer is formed between two 20 gratings made of materials different from each other as disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 11-223717, flexibility in selection of the grating materials is greater than that in the diffraction optical device disclosed in the above-cited Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 10-133149, but the dependency of diffraction efficiency upon the incident angle of light is further increased.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a diffraction optical device capable of suppressing a lowering of diffraction efficiency due to the dependency thereof upon the incident angle of light, and an 5 optical system including the diffraction optical device.

To achieve the above object, the present invention provides a diffraction optical device comprising a first diffraction element and a second diffraction element arranged adjacent to each other, wherein one of the first diffraction element and the second diffraction element has a positive power, the other has a negative power, and the first diffraction element reduces an incident angle of light upon the second diffraction element.

Further, the present invention provides a diffraction optical device comprising a first diffraction element and a second diffraction element arranged adjacent to each other, wherein the first diffraction element and the second diffraction element have blazed gratings having blazed shapes oriented in opposing directions, and the first 20 diffraction element reduces an incident angle of light upon the second diffraction element.

Preferably, the first diffraction element and the second diffraction element are made of materials having dispersion characteristics different from each other.

25 Preferably, an air layer is interposed between the

first diffraction element and the second diffraction element, or the first diffraction element and the second diffraction element are arranged in an intimately contact relation.

5 Preferably, the light is a ray of off-axis primary light propagating through an optical system in which the diffraction elements are disposed.

10 Preferably, the diffraction elements are formed to have high diffraction efficiency for diffracted light of particular order over an entire wavelength range to be used in the optical system.

15 To achieve the above object, the present invention also provides an optical system comprising the diffraction optical device set forth above, and a refraction optical device.

20 Preferably, a wavelength range to be used in the optical system is a visible range.

25 Preferably, the optical system further comprises an iris, wherein a first diffraction element of the diffraction optical device has a positive power, a second diffraction element of the diffraction optical device has a negative power, and the diffraction optical device is arranged in a position nearer to an image than the iris.

30 Preferably, the optical system further comprises an iris, wherein a first diffraction element of the diffraction optical device has a negative power, a second diffraction

element of the diffraction optical device has a positive power, and the diffraction optical device is arranged in a position nearer to an object than the iris.

Further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments with reference to the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1A is a sectional view of an optical system according to a first embodiment of the present invention, and Fig. 1B schematically shows the structure of a diffraction optical device;

Fig. 2 is a graph showing the diffraction efficiency of the diffraction optical device according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing the position of a pupil of the optical system and the incident angle of light upon a grating in the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4A is a sectional view of an optical system according to a second embodiment of the present invention, and Fig. 4B schematically shows the structure of a diffraction optical device;

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing the position of a pupil of

the optical system and the incident angle of light upon a grating in the second embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 6A is a sectional view of an optical system according to a modification of the second embodiment of the present invention, and Fig. 6B schematically shows the structure of a diffraction optical device; and

10 Fig. 7A shows the structure of a single-layer grating of the related art, and Fig. 7B is a graph showing the dependency of diffraction efficiency of the single-layer grating upon wavelengths.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

15 Embodiments of the present invention will be described below.

(First Embodiment)

Fig. 1A is a sectional view of an optical system according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

20 This embodiment represents the case where a diffraction optical device is employed in an extender for a photographic lens.

25 In Fig. 1A, numeral 101 denotes an overall optical system comprising a master lens 102, an extender 103, and an iris 107. Numeral 105 denotes an image plane and 104 denotes an optical axis. A diffraction optical device 106

is provided within the extender 103.

Fig. 1B schematically shows the structure of the diffraction optical device according to this embodiment. As shown in Fig. 1B, a first diffraction element 106a having a positive power (power $\psi = 1/f$: f is the focal length) and a second diffraction element 106b having a negative power are arranged adjacent to each other with an air layer 106c interposed between them. The first diffraction element 106a having a positive power is arranged on the side nearer to an object (i.e., on the light incident side of the air layer).

In Fig. 1B, grating portions of the two diffraction elements 106a, 106b are illustrated in enlarged scale for clearly showing an arrangement that two gratings (kinoforms) of the diffraction elements 106a, 106b have blazed shapes oriented in opposing directions.

As with the other lenses of the optical system 101, the diffraction optical device 106 has a structure rotationally symmetrical about the optical axis 104. As shown, the two diffraction elements 106a, 106b of the diffraction optical device 106 are each formed on a flat surface of a base plate, and the diffraction optical device 106 is joined to a lens 110. In the optical system of this embodiment, the incident angle of light upon the diffraction optical device 106 is increased as the image height increases.

Fig. 2 is a graph showing the diffraction efficiency of

the diffraction optical device. The graph of Fig. 2 indicates the diffraction efficiency resulting when the incident angle is 0, + 6 and - 6 degrees. The diffraction efficiency is represented by a percentage normalized based 5 on the amount of light having passed the diffraction optical device. As seen from Fig. 2, the dependency of diffraction efficiency upon wavelengths is not the same and is asymmetrical between the case of the incident angle being + 6 degrees and the case of the incident angle being - 6 degrees. In this embodiment wherein the diffraction optical 10 device 106 having the above-described construction is arranged in the refraction optical system, taking into account the incident angle of off-axis light upon the diffraction optical device 106, the first diffraction 15 element 106a having a positive power is arranged on the side nearer to the object as shown in Fig. 1B. This arrangement is effective to reduce the incident angle of light upon the second diffraction element 106b having a negative power and arranged on the side nearer to the image plane.

20 The diffraction efficiency shown in Fig. 2 represents the cases where the incident angle θ is set to 0, + 6 and - 6 degrees. When the incident angle is smaller than ± 6 degrees, the asymmetry in the dependency of diffraction efficiency upon wavelengths is reduced. Also, as the 25 incident angle increases from ± 6 degrees, the asymmetry in

the dependency of diffraction efficiency upon wavelengths is increased. In the case where the incident angle of light upon the diffraction optical device 106 is positive, the incident angle of light upon the second diffraction element 106b on the exit side is reduced by the first diffraction element 106a on the entrance side, and therefore the asymmetry in diffraction efficiency between the positive incident angle and the negative incident angle is lessened as compared with the case where the incident angle of light upon the diffraction optical device 106 is negative.

In the arrangement of this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 3, the iris (pupil) 107, the diffraction optical device 106, and the image plane 105 are disposed successively in this order from the side nearer to an object 108. A ray of off-axis primary light 109 enters the diffraction optical device 106 at an angle shown in Fig. 3. The two diffraction elements 106a, 106b of the diffraction optical device 106 may be arranged such that the first diffraction element 106a having a positive power is located on the side nearer to the object as indicated by (a) in Fig. 3, or such that the second diffraction element 106b having a negative power is located on the side nearer to the object as indicated by (b) in Fig. 3. As described above in connection with Fig. 2, however, the dependency of diffraction efficiency upon wavelengths is not the same and is asymmetrical between the

case of the incident angle being positive and the case of the incident angle being negative. Accordingly, in this embodiment, the first diffraction element 106a having a positive power is arranged nearer to the object than the second diffraction element 106b having a negative power, as indicated by (a) in Fig. 3. By employing such an arrangement, the incident angle of light upon the second negative diffraction element 106b is reduced and a lowering of the diffraction efficiency is suppressed.

In this embodiment, the first diffraction element 106a having a positive power is made of an optical material 1 (having a refractive index $n_d = 1.635$ and the Abbe's number $v_d = 23$), and the second diffraction element 106b having a negative power is made of an optical material 2 (having a refractive index $n_d = 1.5250$ and the Abbe's number $v_d = 47.8$). The grating heights of the first and second diffraction elements 106a, 106b are set respectively to $d_1 = 6.9 \times 10^{-3}$ (mm) and $d_2 = 9.5 \times 10^{-3}$ (mm). Then, both the diffraction elements 106a, 106b are arranged adjacent to each other with the air layer interposed between them. The diffraction optical device is constructed as mentioned above, by way of example, in this embodiment, but the kinds of optical materials and the grating heights are not limited to the examples. Also, this embodiment has been described in connection with the case where the diffraction optical

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device is arranged in an extender for a photographic lens. However, the present invention is not limited to that case, and similar advantages are obtained by applying the technique of this embodiment to any other optical system including a diffraction optical device.

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(Second Embodiment)

Fig. 4A is a sectional view of an optical system according to a second embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 4A, numeral 201 denotes an optical system including a diffraction optical device 202, an optical axis 203, an image plane 204, and an iris 205. This embodiment represents the case where the diffraction optical device is applied to a telephoto lens for a photographic lens.

Fig. 4B schematically shows the structure of the diffraction optical device according to this embodiment. As shown in Fig. 4B, a first diffraction element 202a having a negative power and a second diffraction element 202b having a positive power are arranged in an adjacently superimposed relation between two base plates with an air layer 202c interposed between both the diffraction elements.

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In this second embodiment, as shown, the first diffraction element 202a having a negative power is arranged on the side nearer to an object. In Fig. 4B, grating portions of the first and second diffraction elements 202a, 25 202b of the diffraction optical device 202 are illustrated

in enlarged scale for clearly showing an arrangement that two gratings (kinoforms) of the first and second diffraction elements 106a, 106b have blazed shapes oriented in opposing directions.

5 Also, in this second embodiment, the dependency of diffraction efficiency upon wavelengths is asymmetrical, as shown in Fig. 2, between the case of the incident angle being positive and the case of the incident angle being negative.

10 In the arrangement of this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 5, the diffraction optical device 202, the iris (pupil) 205, and the image plane 204 are disposed successively in this order from the side nearer to an object 208. A ray of off-axis primary light 209 enters the diffraction optical device 202 at an angle shown in Fig. 5.

15 The two diffraction elements 202a, 202b of the diffraction optical device 202 may be arranged such that the second diffraction element 202b having a positive power is located on the side nearer to the object as indicated by (a) in Fig. 5, or such that the first diffraction element 202a having a negative power is located on the side nearer to the object as indicated by (b) in Fig. 5. Taking into account the fact that the dependency of diffraction efficiency upon wavelengths is asymmetrical between the case of the incident 20 angle being positive and the case of the incident angle

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being negative as shown in Fig. 2, however, the incident angle of light upon the second positive diffraction element 202b is reduced and a lowering of the diffraction efficiency is suppressed in this embodiment by arranging the first 5 diffraction element 202a having a negative power nearer to the object than the second diffraction element 202b having a positive power, as indicated by (b) in Fig. 5.

Thus, by arranging the diffraction elements 202a, 202b in the order indicated by (b) in Fig. 5, a lowering of the diffraction efficiency due to the dependency thereof upon the incident angle can be suppressed.

Fig. 6A shows a modification of the second embodiment. In Fig. 6A, numeral 301 denotes an optical axis, 303 denotes an iris, 304 denotes an image plane, and 305 denotes a diffraction optical device. The diffraction optical device 305 shown in Fig. 6A has a structure shown in Fig. 6B. More specifically, a first diffraction element 305a having a negative power and a second diffraction element 305b having a positive power are arranged within a lens device 306 in an 20 adjacently superimposed relation with an air layer 305c interposed between both the diffraction elements.

The reason why the first diffraction element 305a having a negative power is arranged nearer to the object than the second diffraction element 305b having a positive power is the same as that in the second embodiment. While 25

the above description has been made in connection with a photographic lens, the present invention not limited to such an application. Also, the present invention is applicable to a diffraction optical device having no power.

According to the first and second embodiments, as described above, a lowering of the diffraction efficiency due to the dependency thereof upon the incident angle of light can be suppressed. It is therefore possible to realize a diffraction optical device having high diffraction efficiency, and an optical system including the diffraction optical device.

While the present invention has been described with reference to what are presently considered to be the preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. On the contrary, the invention is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. The scope of the following claims is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures and functions.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A diffraction optical device comprising a first diffraction element and a second diffraction element arranged adjacent to each other,

wherein one of said first diffraction element and said second diffraction element has a positive power, the other has a negative power, and said first diffraction element reduces an incident angle of light upon said second diffraction element.

2. A diffraction optical device comprising a first diffraction element and a second diffraction element arranged adjacent to each other,

wherein said first diffraction element and said second diffraction element have blazed gratings having blazed shapes oriented in opposing directions, and said first diffraction element reduces an incident angle of light upon said second diffraction element.

3. A diffraction optical device according to Claim 2, wherein said first diffraction element and said second diffraction element are made of materials having dispersion characteristics different from each other.

4. A diffraction optical device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein an air layer is interposed between said first diffraction element and said second diffraction element.

5. A diffraction optical device according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the light is a ray of off-axis primary light propagating through an optical system in which said diffraction elements are disposed.

6. A diffraction optical device according to Claim 5, wherein said diffraction elements are formed to have high diffraction efficiency for diffracted light of particular order over an entire wavelength range to be used in said optical system.

7. An optical system comprising a diffraction optical device according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, and a refraction optical device.

8. An optical system according to Claim 7, wherein a wavelength range to be used in said optical system is a visible range.

9. An optical system according to Claim 7 or 8,

further comprising an iris, wherein a first diffraction element of said diffraction optical device has a positive power, a second diffraction element of said diffraction optical device has a negative power, and said diffraction optical device is arranged in a position nearer to an image than said iris.

10. An optical system according to Claim 7 or 8, further comprising an iris, wherein a first diffraction element of said diffraction optical device has a negative power, a second diffraction element of said diffraction optical device has a positive power, and said diffraction optical device is arranged in a position nearer to an object than said iris.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A diffraction optical device comprising a first diffraction element and a second diffraction element arranged adjacent to each other. One of the first diffraction element and the second diffraction element has a positive power, and the other has a negative power. The first diffraction element reduces an incident angle of light upon the second diffraction element. As a result, a lowering of diffraction efficiency due to the dependency thereof upon the incident angle of light is suppressed, and flare light is prevented from occurring due to diffracted light of unnecessary orders.

故其子曰：「吾父之子，其名也。」

FIG. 1A

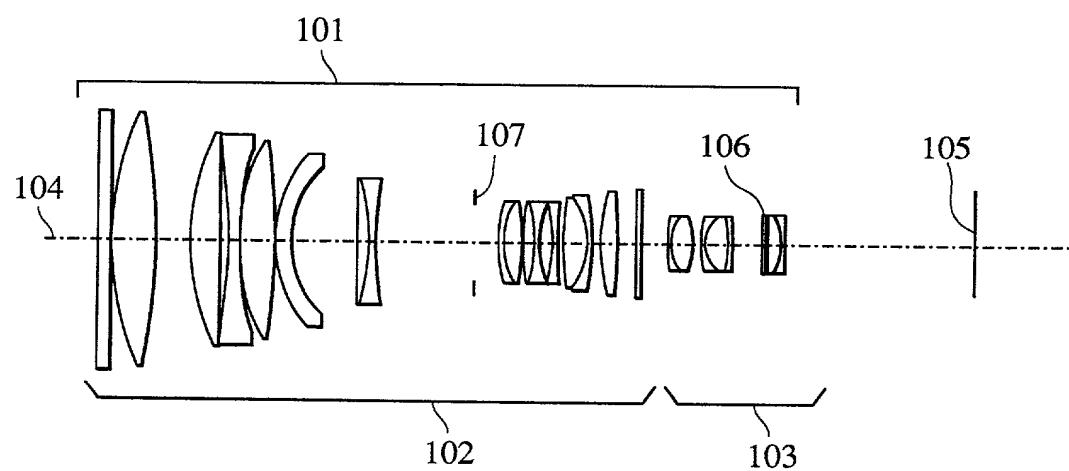


FIG. 1B

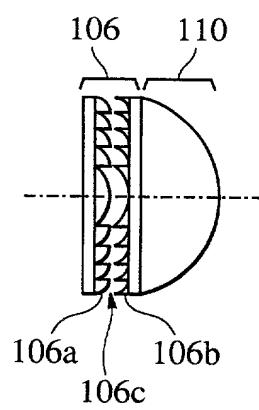


FIG. 2

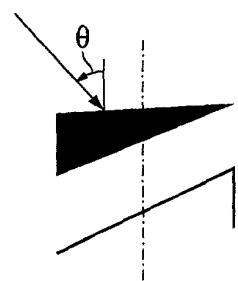
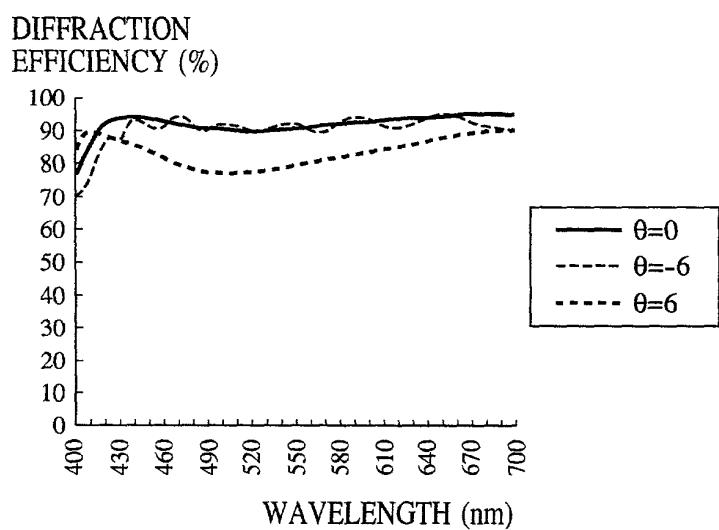


FIG. 3

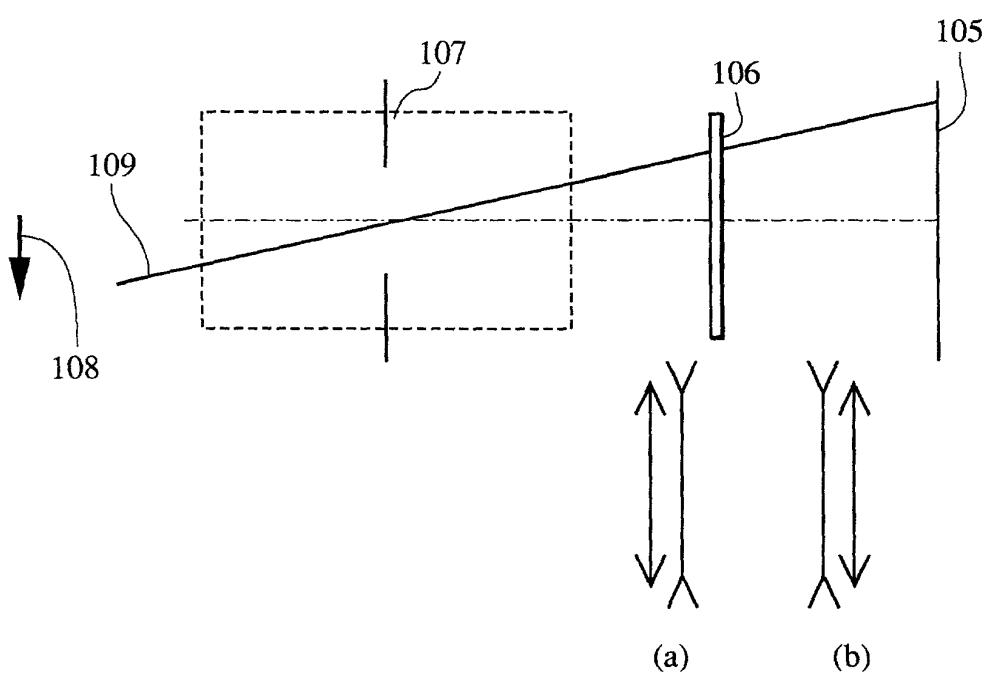


FIG. 4A

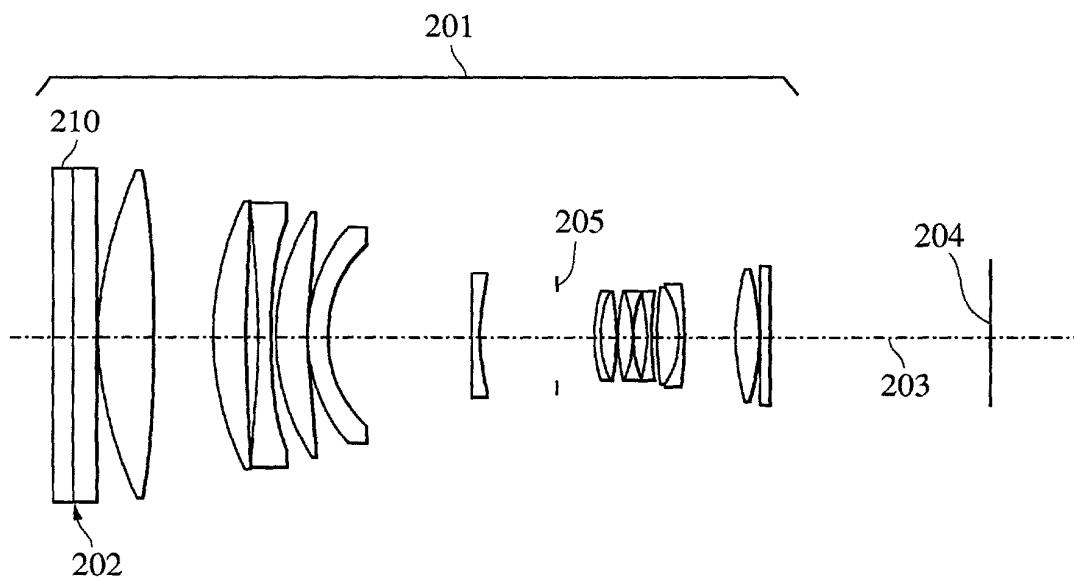


FIG. 4B

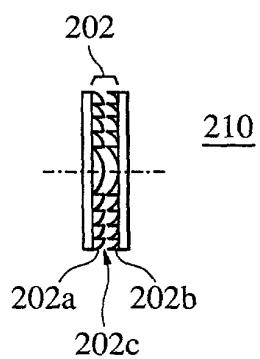


FIG. 5

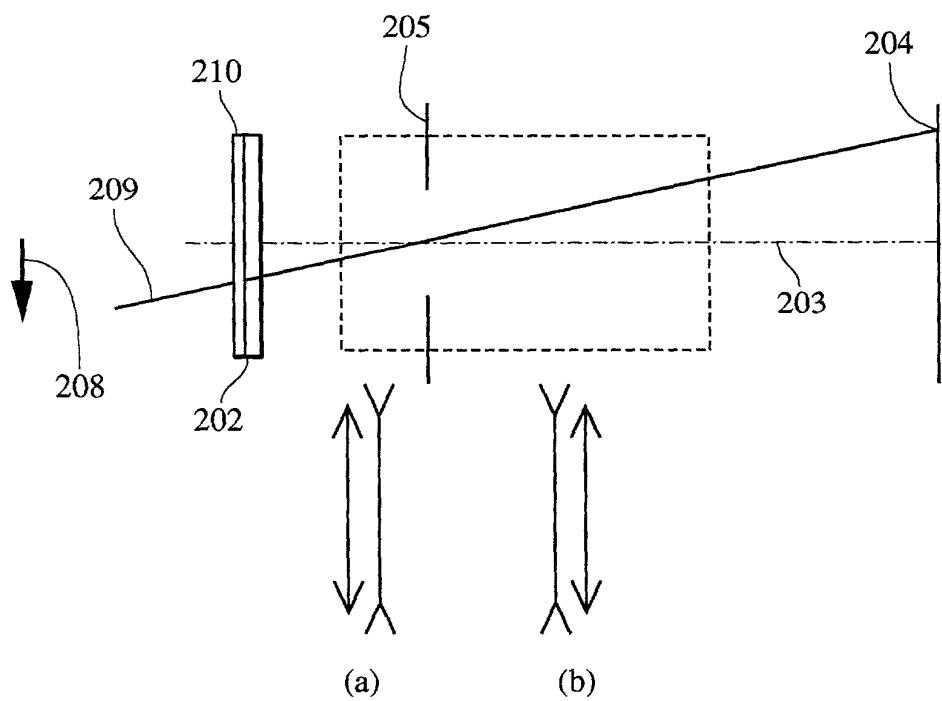


FIG. 6A

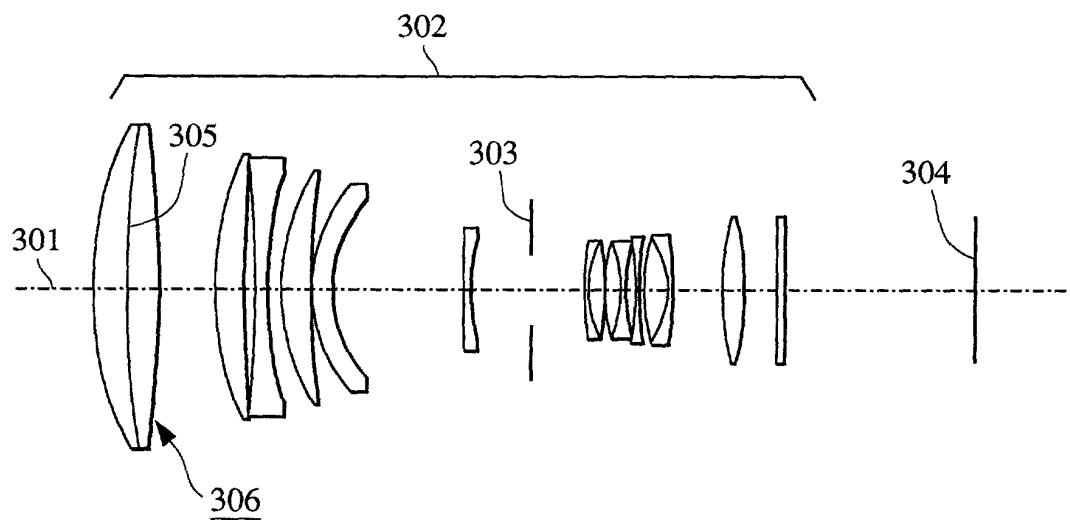


FIG. 6B

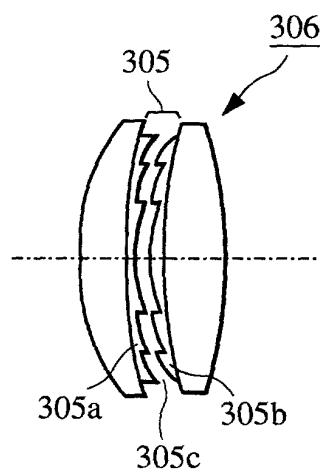


FIG. 7A

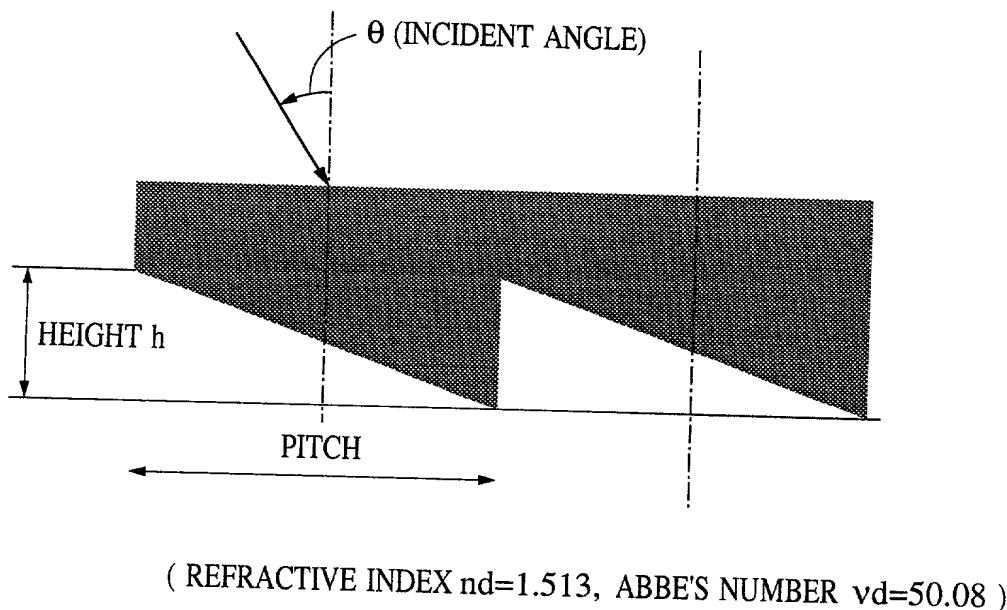
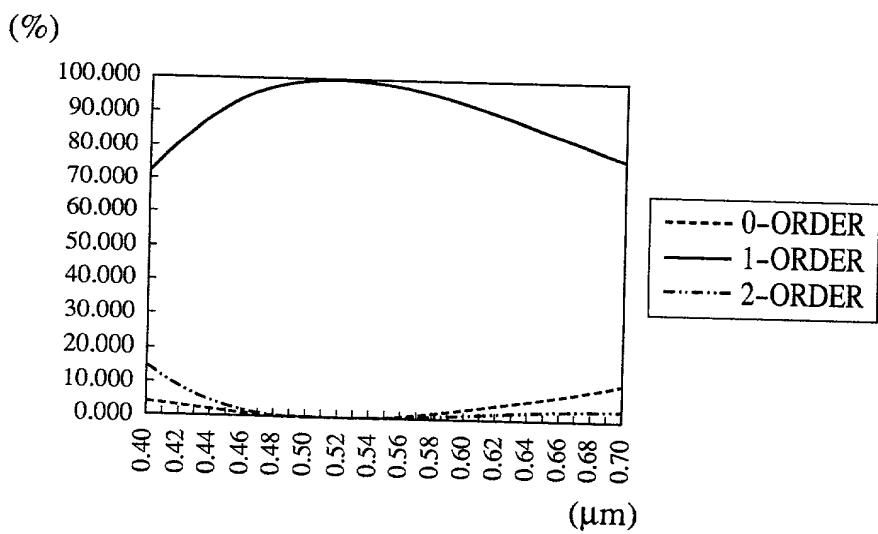


FIG. 7B



**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**
(page 1)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled DIFFRACTION OPTICAL DEVICE AND OPTICAL SYSTEM INCLUDING SAME the specification of which is attached hereto. was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designates at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day / Mo. / Yr.)</u>	<u>(Yes / No)</u> <u>Priority Claimed</u>
Japan	290057/1999 (Pat.)	12/October/1999	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed (Day/Mo./Yr.)</u>	<u>Status</u> <u>(Patented, Pending, Abandoned)</u>
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I hereby appoint the practitioners associated with the firm and Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to the address associated with that Customer Number:

**FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
Customer Number: 05514**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole or First Inventor Shuichi Kobayashi

Inventor's signature Shuichi Kobayashi

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